

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 have been amended so as not to contain both a broad and narrow range in the same claim. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that there would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to consider the above-amendment, and as such, entry thereof into the official record is respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-15 and 17-19 are provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by co-pending Application No. 10/636,692. Please note that this application has been allowed and is now U.S. Patent 6,946,235 (hereinafter "the '235 patent"), which issued September 20, 2005. Accordingly, this rejection is no longer provisional. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In response, Applicants have perfected priority by submitting a verified English translation of the instant priority document JP 2003-032584 filed in Japan on February 10, 2003. Since the filing date of JP 2003-032584 falls before the filing date of the '235 patent, August 8, 2003, the '235 patent is no longer prior art to the instant application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instantly claimed invention has sufficient written description in the instant priority document JP 2003-032584 to satisfy 35 USC § 112, first

paragraph. Also, the instant priority document JP 2003-032584 enables the skilled artisan to make and/or use the invention as presently claimed.

Based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter


Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 16 are allowed.

With the above remarks, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verified English Translation of JP 2003-032584